(d) if so, whether Government would issue necessary instructions to the Kandla Port Trust to negotiate with the State Government for release of the surplus land in Kandla area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) A total area of land of Kandla Port Trust is 2,29,511 acres including 2,20,416 acres submerged land. A total land of 23,031 acres has been utilised by the Kandla Port Trust. The land which is lying unutilised is earmarked for expansion of the Port and port related facilities in future.

(c) The land available with Kandla Port Trust is to be used for supporting Development of Port and port related facilities which includes Port based Industries as well as such other industries which add to the cargo volumes at the Port.

(d) No, Sir.

Development of Inland Water Transport

3331. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has adequate design expertise to study the development of facilities to aid inland transport in rivers and delta areas in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is active inland water transport in the delta areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any study has been made of the full potential by Government;

(d) if so, when was this study made;

(e) if not, when such a study will be made to assess the full potential of inland water transport in the Godavari and Krishna Deltas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Country boats and small mechanised boats operate.

(c) and (d) A Techno-economic feasibility study for development of Kakinada-Mercaunum canal system integrated with Godavari and Krishna rivers has been undertaken. The study from Kakinada to Chennai was completed in 1995 which was enlarged during 1998-99 for integrated waterway system including canal system between Kakinada and Mercaunum and Godavari and Krishna rivers.

(e) and (1) Do not arise.

Construction of Nidampur by-pass

3332. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state by what time Government would issue the administrative approval and make the necessary funds available for the construction of Nidampur by-pass?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): Construction of by-passes are accorded low priority due to constraint of funds. In view of this construction of Nidampur by-pass on National Highway-64 is not included in the proposed Annual Plan 2000-2001 of the Punjab State.

Construction of by-pass on NH-64

3333. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up construction work of by-pass at Patiala on National Highway-64 on priority basis in view of heavy congestion of general traffic and military movement within Patiala city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The by-passes are being accorded low priority. However, the land acquisition for the Patiala by-pass is in progress.